

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 6, 2010

The Honorable Lisa Madigan
Attorney General
State of Illinois
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Attorney General Madigan:

We write in strong support of your response to the lawsuit filed by the State of Michigan on December 21st to shut down Chicago-area locks. We understand your office is expected to mount a spirited defense against any unjustified interference with Illinois commerce.

As you are likely aware, significant and well-coordinated efforts are underway to combat the spread of Asian carp into the Great Lakes. Local, state, and federal officials are intensely focused on immediate solutions, such as bypass risk along the Des Plaines River, E-DNA discovery in the Cal-Sag Channel, and the recent application of Rotenone.

A longer-term solution, such as the addition of a second barrier, Barrier IIB, in the Chicago Sanitary and Shipping Canal, will prove even more effective once completed this fall.

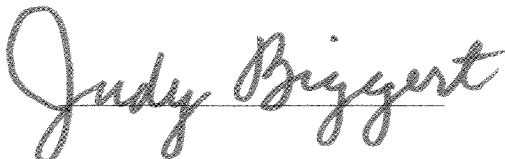
It is important to note that immediate closure of Chicago-area locks and dams is but one of many solutions to be considered. It is not yet justified on any scientific or technical basis and could prove economically catastrophic to Illinois and the surrounding Great Lakes economies.

In 2008, over 19 million tons of commodities moved through the O'Brien, Chicago, and Lockport locks combined. The closure of O'Brien Lock alone would cause massive loss of business and jobs for operators that move cargo, the shipyards that service the towing industry, and terminals that receive, ship, and store cargo.

As members of the Illinois Congressional delegation, we remain committed to working hand-in-hand with our local, state, and federal environmental managers to prevent the Asian carp from reaching our lakes and destroying the natural ecosystem of Illinois waterways. We will continue to make progress while balancing our vital environmental and economic interests.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Danny H. Davis

John E. Jr-19

Jimmy H. Castello

Donald A. Moryello

Bill Foster

Sam Schok

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Lis V. Gutierrez

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